Recd Jan. 25. '57.

Bill of Exch'ge
for £1. received
& handed to
R. F. W.

Samuel May jnr.
21 Cornhill
Boston
Massachusetts
U. S. America

JAN
P 9 N
1857

99

MS. B. L. G. v. 6. p. 46

Boston, Feb. 8th. 1857.

Dear friend Webb.

I have lying before me your two letters, of Jan. 9th, & 16th— the former containing your account. I have, as yet, done nothing about settling it, or paying its different items, an Annual Meeting being just at hand when it was received, and my time having been quite engrossed ever since with that, and its various business-concerns; but the account will not be much longer delayed. The time for which the payments to you are made is not, I perceive, given in all instances; but as you and I have got that matter upon a pretty correct footing, I presume no difficulty will be experienced. I notice, too, that several Subscriptions are included, of which (& their payment) I have been heretofore notified; but I will look sharply to the dates, and endeavour not to count one payment twice, as I once did in the case of Mr. Cotterell of Bath, I remember. Your account, I doubt not, is right; but I leave it for the present, & until I have fully settled it, when you shall hear again, together with my Statement of the Account between us.

What you say of Mary Estlin, in connexion with the Advocate, rejoices my heart — all our hearts, I may say. We do much esteem and love the sensible, faithful, neat little sheet. You ask for more American correspondence. I was thinking you had quite enough! I mentioned yr wish to E. Quincy; he shook his head, and feared that some of his unlucky scriptural allusions might lose you half your readers. I have heretofore asked Chas. Whipple, but he could not then do it. Possibly he may now, though I doubt. You will be glad to know that C.K.W. (for I remember you like him) has been brought recently into close & official connexion with us. He has accepted the appointment to be a sort of Trade Agent and City Anti-Slavery Missionary of the American Anti-Slavery Society, in connexion with which he will act as a Corresponding Editor of the

National A. S. Standard. I think his hands will be full, but I will try again what luck I have with him. I can promise you, however, nothing better - few things so good, - as Pillsbury's letters, which I hope will go to you regularly. People in your country, who have become acquainted with him, will I should think prefer reading his letters to any body's else. McKim is an excellent letter-writer, and ought to give you a letter as often as every other paper. He too is well known among the British abolitionists, and his letters would be sure to commend themselves. A line, direct from yourself, proposing this arrangement, would walk him up to it, I incline to believe; and I think he would feel interested in doing it. He chooses his topics well, & treats them soundly and perspicuously.

Feb. 10th Since writing the above I have asked Whipple again, and he does not say, No. On the contrary he recognises now a sort of duty to aid you, since you so obligingly continue sending the Advocate to him.

By the Steamship "Arabia", which sails hence tomorrow, I send our Annual "Bell" box - (I call it so, not because we had a "Lib. Bell" this year, but for the sake of sticking to one name). The freight is paid to Liverpool. It is addressed to you, to the care of S. R. Graves, Baltic Buildings, Lpool. As I do not communicate with them about it, perhaps you had better send him your directions. The box contains - 1. Parcels of the Bazaar Report, in pamphlet form; ~~Done up~~ the parcels of different sizes, directed to different places. One lot of 100 copies is for your use, - for distribution to friends in Dublin, Belfast, Waterford Cork, &c., and that you may have extra copies to be sent here & there, as opportunity offers. 2. There are some parcels of last year's "Liberty Bell", which Mrs. Chapman sends for friends who have not had it. 3. There are a few copies of the "Legion of Liberty" and the Madison Papers volume, for your use in

distribution, &c. Also, some copies of the "European" newspaper. 4. Our Executive Committee send you a few volumes. H. C. Wright sends you a copy of the big Kansas book – i.e. the Report of the Investigating Committee sent to Kansas by the H. of Representatives last Summer. 5. I should have mentioned before that there are 100 (or thereabouts) copies of the last annual Report of the American Anti-Slavery Society. In compliance with your suggestions, these are not in any case written upon, and you will please distribute them with the other parcels according to your best judgment. If any names occur to me, not likely to occur to you, I will mention them. To Edinburgh, for instance, I should advise sending 12 copies at least – to Glasgow (say) 10 – to Leeds, 5 – to Manchester, 5 or more – to Bristol, 8 or 10, &c. &c. But you will please let your own judgment be the final one. I should like to have the following, among others, receive copies – Revs. Geo. Armstrong, Bristol – Wm. James, Bristol – S. A. Steinthal – Francis Bishop – Franklin Howorth, Bury, near Manchester – Edwin Chapman, Bristol – Edmund Kell, Southampton – Dr. Jos. Hutton, Burton Road, Derby – George Harris, Newcastle on Tyne – (Reverends all!) Among those whose address you may not have are Mrs. Reid, 21 York Terrace, Regent's Park, London – Thos. & Esther Sturge, Northfleet near London –

6. W. Phillips sends to you, as requested, his photograph. He also sends, rolled up, 2 prints addressed to Miss. E. P. Nichol. They are two prints recently published here, each containing 9 heads. You may like to see them, and no harm can be done by unrolling and looking at them. (As to my own photograph, which you kindly ask for, I may perhaps, some day, send it to you. At present, my face being rendered quite bad-looking – I fear – by the outgrowth of my beard, a very comfortable thing this exceedingly severe winter however, I would prefer deferring the taking its likeness to a more propitious season! A streak of vanity you see, even in an Abolitionist with grey hairs.)

I send the Receipt of the Steamship's officer, not only that you may have evidence of freight paid, but that you may see the Rules or Conditions (previously unknown to me) on which these Steamers take goods. According to these, our box is quite an illegal one, and liable to suffer at the hands of Custom-House officers - though it is precisely such a box as we have sent for several years past. Our box contains no letters, unless it may be one or two unsealed ones, in Pillsbury's or Wright's parcels; but there are 2 or 3 dozen "Europeans", "Standards", & "Liberators", ~~which the~~ put in partly to fill up chinks, which the Customs-officers at L. may be savage enough to seize. But if they will read & subscribe, we'll forgive them. - Then the entire box consists (as described in the N.B.) of "parcels for different consignees, collected & made up in single packages, addressed to one party for delivery in England" - not certainly "for the purpose of evading ~~freight~~ payment of freight", for we should not send such parcels at all if we had not some friend to undertake their distribution, nor if we had to make up so many separate & distinct packages for ~~Wright~~ the Ship. Whether there will be an "examination by the Customs" in L'pool, and an additional "freight charged", remains to be seen. Pray let me know what is done about it.

MS. Ltr. 16, p. 46

The receipt mentions, you will see, a Half-bbl. as well as the box. It is a present of some Apples from Mrs. Chapman to Harriet Martineau, and is consigned to Powell's care. The stupid (or lazy) officer here did not choose to name more than one consignee. I refer to it to save you from puzzling yourself needlessly as to the meaning of the receipt.

I shall endeavour to get a sight at the London National Reviews. I think I can find it at our Boston Public Library - or at the Boston Athenæum, - both of which have a pretty copious supply of the British Reviews & Magazines - Dr. Kane has been 'all the rage' here this winter.

As to the rumour about Henry C. Wright, I believe it to be a vile slander. It is some 2 years' old here, and of late I have heard nothing about it. It has, I presume, been got up for the English market by some — "good-natured friend". It is certain that H. C. W. does not live with his wife. It is a very long time since he did. There is, as I have always understood, a total want of sympathy on every possible subject. H. C. W. is therefore a perpetual exile from home. But all this you doubtless know — and, most likely, more fully than I. Among the many friendships which he has made in his lecturing-tours in Ohio, &c. was one with a family named Lukens; ~~and~~ a more than common sympathy ~~existed~~ sprang up between them, and it became a favourite home of Henry W.'s, in a region where every one is hospitable. No doubt a very strong attachment was formed between H. C. W. & Mrs. L., and it may have been carried, in its intimacy and endearments, beyond what prudence or good sense would warrant; but I know of no one who thinks that any criminal or wrong step was taken. I asked Garrison about it; G. is as sensitive on such a point as man can be; he expressed his entire confidence in Henry W.'s correct deportment in the whole matter, and declared that he knew none would condemn such a course of life, as that charged upon him (H. C. W.), sooner than H. C. W. himself. I said your story was some two years old here; but I must correct that. I never heard here such a report as, you say, has come to your ears. The most I had heard were some censures (proper enough, I thought) upon the too free manners of H. W. & Mrs. L. towards each other, and perhaps a surmise or two from persons not acquainted with the parties that all was not right. Nothing, so far as I know, was ever openly alleged against them, and all talk on the subject

here died away long since. I strongly suspect that "the" enemy of our cause & of all its friends has set this old story afloat in your country, with many additions & exaggerations. He C. W. is now here & hereabouts, and is to remain in N. England until June. I was strongly minded to let him know that the story had floated over to Eng^d, & into your ears. But I did not, and shall not, unless you give me leave. - It might be the means of getting for you, from him, a direct and fully satisfactory account of the whole affair.

Do you ever see F. Douglass's Paper now? It has been reduced in size, almost one half; and now comes out looking like one of our small one-cent papers. The change, he says, is a necessary one. After wriggling & turning, & trying to adapt himself to one, & another, & another, set of views & measures & men, he finds that he has the confidence of very few, the respect, I venture to say, of none. Do what he may, we shall take no notice of him, and I think his career - on professedly anti-slavery grounds - will soon come to an end.

Boston, Feb 8. 1847

The Republican party are pursuing the most foolish and suicidal course possible. Their leaders are disclaiming any intention or desire to abolish slavery, or interfere with it in any of the States where it exists by law. They are scouting the charge of having any sympathy with the Abolitionists. They declare their readiness to vote for slaveholders. They denounce the anti-slavery men, who expose the guilt and folly of the Union & call for its dissolution, as traitors who deserve only the gallows. Their talk on this subject is as base and brutal and pro-slavery as that of the democratic hacks

who so long have led to and cheated their people. They are spreading a torpor, and lethargy, and palsy over the intellects, the hearts, the consciences of their adherents. - They will not decline all. There is always a remnant to be saved. But the vast multitude will go back or sink lower, and other hands must enter and possess the promised land of freedom. It looks to me now as if these false, and deluded, - people have put back the cause of freedom a whole generation. Their behaviour is most base - their position is most cowardly & contemptible. It is one they cannot justify to the world, or themselves; and they will (I believe) rapidly deteriorate, and ere long be swallowed up in some organization more pro. Slavery. Charles Sumner and Joshua R. Giddings are probably the only two Republican Members of Congress, who hold their office with no selfish end, and for the honest and genuine purpose to watch the Slave Power and foil its designs. Even they make concessions to the Slaveholder, and give their immensely powerful aid in supporting that government, which is the great Engine of the Slave Power for accomplishing all its ends. Giddings sees the most clearly of the two - or at least declares that he sees the most plainly. - (the mischief of this Union.) His late letter to the Worcester Disunion Convention appears to say - "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian!" - for surely Christianity demands of us to be separate from sinners, as to all participation & alliance with them. - Charles Sumner is still in Boston, detained by bodily weakness & suffering. He will, it is understood, go to Washington for a few days at the close of the present Session, and attend to some necessary business. After

which he is to embark for Europe, with the view of spending nearly the entire interval ~~between this and~~ until the next assembling of Congress in journeying, and such other means as may, if possible, recruit and thoroughly restore his health. Innumerable blessings will follow him, and prayers ascend for him. For, false as his position is, and none but the uncompromising Abolitionists can see that, he has contended manfully and nobly with the Slave Power — without asking what he was, personally, to gain or to lose — showing a fearless spirit for himself, and a true courtesy to opponents: I wish I could say he made no compromises with the tyrannical & dastardly & wicked men whom he so ably combats. There will be a great many in your land, I doubt not, to welcome him to English soil, and honour him for his many brave and lasting words and deeds.

Was not the death of Preston S. Brooks startling? I cannot help the belief that a "punishment greater than he could bear" has been weighing down his spirit ever since that day when he struck the murderous blow upon Charles Sumner's unsuspecting head. I am sure that a sense of shame, ignominy, disgrace, must have more & more preyed on his mind and rendered him an easier victim to disease. And it surely was no ordinary disease, which so suddenly took him away.

---

Garrison and Pillsbury are off to the State of New York, to aid for 2 or 3 weeks the series of Anti-Slavery Conventions which the American A.S. Society are holding there. They are both pretty well. So are our friends generally. Francis Jackson holds his own remarkably. Pray forgive me that I don't, or can't, write you a better letter, & believe me, with my best respects to your sisters

Ever truly yours,
Samuel May, Jr.